



# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

Michael O. Leavitt  
Governor

Robert L. Morgan  
Executive Director

Lowell P. Braxton  
Division Director

1594 West North Temple, Suite 1210

PO Box 145801

Salt Lake City, Utah 84114-5801

(801) 538-5340 telephone

(801) 359-3940 fax

(801) 538-7223 TTY

www.nr.utah.gov

July 22, 2003

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Paul Baker, Senior Reclamation Biologist

RE: Site Inspection, Scott Higley, 2 More Feet, S/013/007, Duchesne County, Utah

Date of Inspection: July 14, 2003

Time of Inspection: about 12:25-12:45 p.m.

Conditions: Partly cloudy, 70's

Participants: Dave Herron and Chauncie Todd (Ashley National Forest), Wayne Hedberg and Paul Baker (DOGM)

## Purpose of Inspection:

There is no record of anyone from the Division ever visiting this site, and we wanted to see how much disturbance there was and how the site was being operated.

## Getting to the Site:

On SR 35 about 10 miles northwest of Hanna, there is a turnoff leading to the West Fork of the Duchesne River. A few hundred yards farther northwest, there is a road that leads into Rhoades Canyon. Keep going straight on this road for about five miles. There are two turnoffs heading west, but stay on the road going straight up the canyon. At the top of the canyon, turn right and go up Lightning Ridge (see the attached map that shows the top part of the road into Rhoades Canyon and the Jeep trail up Lightning Ridge). We parked before getting to the summit of the ridge and just before entering a small grove of trees. Photo 1 is a view to the northwest or down Lightning Ridge from where we parked. The mine is about 100 yards down the hill to the west from this point. It is in an open area on one of the steeper parts of the slope, and it is not visible from the road. Photo 3 shows two of us hiking down toward the mine. Photo 2 was taken from just above the mine, and the road from Rhoades Canyon can be seen at the bottom of the canyon near the left center of the photograph. Photo 4 is a view to the northeast from the top of Lightning Ridge looking toward Hades Canyon.

## Observations:

Disturbance at the 2 More Feet site is probably less than a thousand square feet. There is one shaft with some log supports and a tarp over the opening. There is a hole about two feet deep with a false dirt floor which I understand from the operator is over an 8-foot shaft.

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Scott Higley, 2 More Feet

S/013/007

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Vegetation near the mine is a green rabbitbrush meadow community. Surrounding areas have aspens, Engelmann spruce, and subalpine fir. As can be seen in Photos 5 and 6, there are some bare areas adjacent to the mine.

#### **Conclusions and Recommendations:**

On July 18, 2003, I spoke with the operator, Scott Higley, about conditions at the site and about his plans. During the inspection, we were unable to tell whether the shaft extends into bedrock or if Mr. Higley intended to conduct a placer operation, but he told me the shaft does go into bedrock. He plans to go to the site in August and do some more sampling.

Mr. Higley also described a metal cage he plans to install. As I understood it, this cage would be put in the shaft and would extend far enough above the surface to hold rock and soil above the mine. Putting material above the opening will make the area much easier to reclaim. The top of this cage could be closed to discourage anyone from going in the shaft.

If any waste or other material is put on the hill below the mine, there will need to be some kind of retaining wall to keep it from going down the side of the canyon.

I volunteered to recommend a seed mix for interim stabilization:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Pounds pure live seed (PLS)/acre</u>
Mountain Brome	12
Slender Wheatgrass	8

Sherel Goodrich is an ecologist with the Ashley National Forest, and he sent me an e mail indicating this seed mix would be acceptable for interim revegetation. Additional species, such as yarrow, Louisiana sage, and sheep fescue, could be used for final reclamation, but these species should be approved by the Forest Service.

Seed should be broadcast in the fall and should be raked into the soil. On this steep slope, the Division recommends also applying some certified noxious weed free mulch, such as straw, to help protect the seed and the soil.

jb

cc: Dave Herron, Duchesne Ranger District, Ashley National Forest  
Scott Higley, operator

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# 2 More Feet S/013/007 and Moore & Crook E/051/006



2000 0 2000 4000 Feet

- Denny Moore
- 2 More Feet
- Road between the Sites



Denny Moore and 2 More Feet sites and the road between them. Map created 7/17/03 from GPS data collected 7/14/03 by Paul Baker. Sect. 33, Township 1 North, Range 9 West, USM. Iron Mine Mountain Quad. This map may not meet Division standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.



**ATTACHMENT**

**Inspection Date: July 14, 2003; Report Date: July 22, 2003**

**Photographs**

**S/013/007, 2 More Feet, Scott Higley**



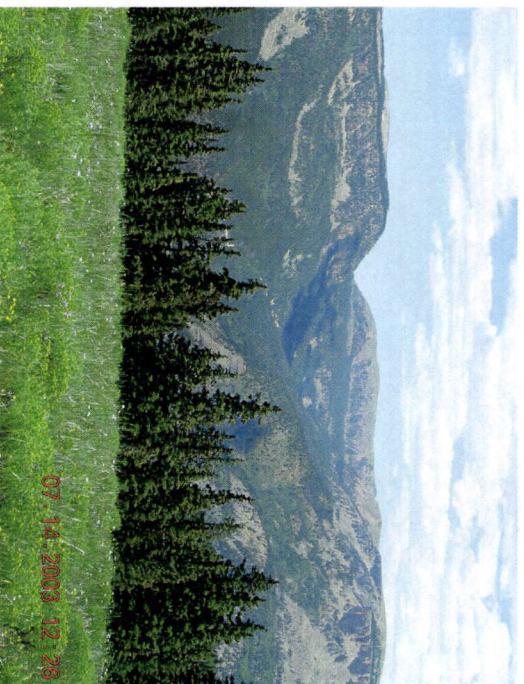
**Photo 1. Looking back northwest along Lightning Ridge from above the 2 More Feet Mine.**



**Photo 3. Walking down toward the mine from the road on Lightning Ridge.**



**Photo 2. The mine is at the right center of the photo just after the hill steepens. Note the Rhoades Canyon road in the bottom of the canyon.**



**Photo 4. View from the top of Lightning Ridge toward Hades Canyon.**





Photo 5. The 2 More Feet Mine.



Photo 6. Another view of the 2 More Feet Mine.